

NEW YEAR'S IN CHINA.

The Holiday Festivities of the Other Side of the Globe.

New Year's Day as a Settlement Day, and How It Prevents Great Business Failures. New Clothes for New Year's—A Nation in Silks—The Chinese Annual Scrubbing. How the People Make New Year's Calls, and Something as to The Chinese Year Cards and Presents—The First Day of the Year as the Universal Birthday—Its Fire-crackers—The Emperor's New Year.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

(Copyright, 1891.)

HAPPY New Year! While we are celebrating it at home let us see how our yellow-faced cousins, the children of a far-off land, are getting ready for the New Year. A hole 8,000 miles long, through your front-door yard, and you will come out among the Celestials. Shoot your eyes through it if you can, and see how the Chinese are celebrating the New Year. All is bustle and the rush and push of the millions of pig-tailed, almond-eyed mortals fill the air with its din, and the jabber, jabber, jabber of ten thousands of Chinese tongues makes your long hole a telephone by which you can hear the sounds of the other side of the world.

Let me squat at the Chinese end of the telephone and tell you what they are doing. It takes time to analyze the sounds and to appreciate the sights, but I will try. The Chinese are getting ready for New Year's. The first day of the first month is the great day of the year to these 300,000,000 of people. The moon varies in its rising, and this day is from two to four weeks later than our New Year's. So, while you are eating your New Year's dinner all China is getting ready for hers. While you are starting new books China is settling up her old ones, and this whole Mongolian world is preparing for a grand feast, and for its greatest holiday time. China has no Christmas. It has no New Year's. Its people wait Sunday every day all the year round, with the exception of the New Year's season, and the holidays

known as the Mandarin orange, which has the same name in China as the word for good luck, and which is given as indicating good wishes on the part of the giver. Merchants usually send presents to their customers, and many gifts are interchanged among business firms. I know of many foreigners in China who get presents of value from their Chinese friends every New Year, and among the gifts received are elegantly engraved silver pens or cups. A pair of new shoes is a common gift among the poorer classes, and nearly every one goes out to pay New Year's calls upon his friends.

These New Year calls are a matter of etiquette in China as they are in our own country, and no one would think of going out to make visits on this day without a new suit of clothes. Even the poorest of the people try to have new suits on New Year's Day, and those who can afford to buy them hire them. The Chinese of New Year's is a well-dressed China. Millions of the people

turn out in silks and satins, and the servants and the masters are, for that day, dressed much the same. The Chinese are lovers of the good things in life. Though they work hard, they are fond of luxury, and they spend as much on their clothes as we do. They have their New Year's cards prepared for the occasion. These are 10 times as big as our cards, and their names are printed in tea-leaf characters. The color of the Chinese visiting card is red, the color of good luck, and a white card on New Year's Day would in China be looked upon as a card with a black hand around it. It is viewed in the United States, for white is the Chinese color for mourning.

The Chinese New Year's cards have, in addition to the names of the owners, New Year's wishes, and these are not simply "A Happy New Year," but characters expressing the hope that the recipient may have many children, may attain a high rank, and live many years. Such cards are, however, left with only intimate friends or relatives. The Chinese are particular as to the first day of the year, and one would not be so familiar with a mere acquaintance. It is common, however, to send ordinary New Year's

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The New Year is also the small boy of China's great freeraker day, and in this it is like our Fourth of July. Everyone has his package of fireworks, and they are set off on the street and everywhere till the air is blue with smoke. The Festival of the Lanterns takes place 10 days later, and at this time bright-colored paper lanterns are hung in front of every door. The public buildings are illuminated, and at Peking there is a great celebration.

The Government of China recognizes New Year's Day, and the officers of the Government hold receptions much like our President's at the White House. The Emperor, however, is too busy to receive the common people, and he lets only the men of the Imperial Household and his chief officers come in and bow down before him. All the Mandarins of the land are supposed to do this, and they do it all over the Empire by bowing down before a throne in imitation of the Emperor's and his chief officers. On each of three days they paste the words "May the Emperor Live 10 times 10,000 years," and they go to the Emperor's temple, which exists in nearly every city, to pay their respects. The Emperor of China is the priest as well as the King of his people, and his name, "the Son of Heaven," shows the regard in which the people hold him. The Emperor's reign always dates from a New Year's Day, and his predecessor, if he dies in the middle of the year, is supposed to finish out his year. Every New Year's Day is the annual anniversary of the accession of the Emperor to the throne, and it is celebrated as such, and the young lord monarch will be re-throned on New Year's. He will make sacrifices for the people, will receive the con-

gratulations of his ministers, and will hold a levee with the ladies of his harem. In the evening he will probably give a banquet, and to this all the nobility of China will sit down.

And do the Chinese give New Year's gifts? Yes, indeed! They are more generous in this respect than we are. For a week following New Year's Day there is nothing but feasting and present giving. The narrow streets of every town will soon be filled with servants carrying presents from one family to another, and the servants themselves always receive presents from their masters. A common present among equals is a loose-skinned orange,



SETTLING UP.

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New Year's Day is the birthday of all the Chinese! All of these three or four hundred millions of people will have a birthday within a few weeks. A Chinese baby is a year old on the first New Year's after his birth, and one year older on "Every New Year's" thereafter. In this way the ages of all the Chinese are computed, and the tens of thousands of babies who will be born between now and New Year's will be a year old on "Every New Year's" thereafter. In this way the ages of the older babies who can light ten months ago. The Chinaman can save his New Year's gifts and his birthday gifts, and can congratulate himself on his economical plan of having his Fourth of July, his Christmas, and his New Year's all on the same day. If he wants to honor his brother he can call his New Year's feast a birthday dinner in celebration of him, and he can call his New Year's gift a birthday present.

The preparation for New Year's which is now going on over China extends to houses and stores as well as to clothes. Everything is cleaned up and scrubbed. The walls of the houses are washed and re-decorated, and the stone floors are made to shine like those of a Dutch kitchen. Many of the houses are repaired, and the roofs are patched. And as for the clothes, they are of all sizes and of curious character. Some contain sentences from the Chinese classics. Others bear the word "Fah," which means happiness, and they spend as much on their clothes as we do. They have their New Year's cards prepared for the occasion. These are 10 times as big as our cards, and their names are printed in tea-leaf characters. The color of the Chinese visiting card is red, the color of good luck, and a white card on New Year's Day would in China be looked upon as a card with a black hand around it. It is viewed in the United States, for white is the Chinese color for mourning.

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CONGRESS.

An Abstract of the More Important Proceedings in Both Houses.

TUESDAY, DEC. 22.
In the Senate Mr. Leland Stanford, of California (re-elected), took the oath of office as Senator.

The Senate took up and passed the resolution for the employment of an additional force, to be paid out of the Contingent Fund of the purchase of the Maltby House by the Government, which is to be used for Committee rooms for Senate Committees. The force is only to be employed during the session of Congress.

The Senate then took up and passed the concurrent resolution of the House of Representatives, that when the two Houses adjourn on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1891, they stand adjourned until Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1892.

Mr. McMillan introduced the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Senate be and it be the duty of the Senate to hear with deep sympathy the death of Hon. Melbourn B. Ford, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

The Secretary communicated this resolution to the House of Representatives.

Mr. McMillan then, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, moved the first reading of a report of the Board appointed by the House of Representatives to investigate the explosion in the district of Columbia, to which he invites the attention of Congress and the people.

The report was read by Mr. McMillan, and the House adjourned until Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1892.

Agents wanted. Comrades preferred. See page 4.

MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

Sanitary Engagements on Both Sides of the Rio Grande.

The forces of the Garza revolutionists in northern Mexico are rapidly increasing. Numerous detachments are moving toward Camargo, Mexico, where they propose to concentrate and proceed in a body to the interior of the Republic.

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Capt. Hardie, 3d U. S. Cav., is reported as being in pursuit of some 500 revolutionists who have been camping and recruiting near the Rio Grande. Capt. John G. Bourke, 3d U. S. Cav., has been in command of Fort Ringgold, and has not been heard from in two days, and orders from the War Department are being sent to him to reach him, which leads to the belief that the telegraph wires have been cut between Rio Grande City and Brownsville, and that he is surrounded by the revolutionists.

Agents wanted. Comrades preferred. See page 4.

Work of the Pension Office.

During the week 7,228 claims were received, of which 115 were original invalid, 296 widows, 8 bounty land, 26 navy, 40 old war, 180 accrued, and 3,214 applications for increase; act of June 27, 1890, 1,860 original invalid, 483 widows, and 1,374 prior applications under former acts.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Crimes and Casualties.

Mrs. Ada Therpe Loftus, an English woman, who came to this country for the purpose of "reviving" President Harrison, was sent to the Bloomingdale Asylum for Bellevue Hospital, having been pronounced insane. She arrived on the Britannic two weeks ago and put up at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. New York Herald.

Alfred Madden and James Lakeman were in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) police court last week, charged with having stolen a showcase of March 1st.

Merchants here claimed that the case contained two mummies of Egyptian princes, the only ones of the kind outside of Pharaoh's land. He said they had cost him \$1,000 in elephants' tusks, and had come over on the steamship City of Alexandria. There was also a large and valuable piece of coral worth \$500, and an oyster shell with a sponge growing inside, destroyed.

Dr. J. W. Williams, a physician, was performing a delicate operation upon a Mrs. Reiss, of Brooklyn. Her husband made his appearance, armed with a loaded double-barreled shotgun. Pointing the weapon at the doctor's head he declared that if his wife died he would kill both of them. For two hours he kept the physicians in terror. Meanwhile the patient was in such a critical condition that he had all the time to prevent her from sinking.

A destructive fire occurred Dec. 21 in St. Louis in a large frame tenement. Two terrible explosions wrecked one of the rooms. An investigation disclosed the fact that two dynamite bombs had been placed between the walls of the building. A bed saturated with kerosene was at the place fired. No reason is assigned for the deed.

W. R. Laidlaw, the Brooklyn clerk, handed the millinery retail Sage for \$100,000 damages for using him as a shield to save himself from the bomb exploded by the crank Norcross in Sage's office, New York, Dec. 4. The suit will be based upon the allegation that Sage deliberately held Laidlaw between himself and the menacing dynamite, with the result that Sage's life was saved at the expense of terrible injury to Laidlaw.

Mr. Laidlaw is an inmate of St. Vincent's Hospital. In a letter to the office of St. Vincent's, dated Dec. 21, he stated that he had nearly the entire business portion. Gasoline exploding in a drugstore caused the conflagration. Loss \$60,000. The Myron and Baldwin block of Fifth Avenue, between 10th and 11th streets, was destroyed by fire last week. Loss \$150,000. In Chicago a fire broke out in the factory of the L. Wolf Manufacturing Co., Dec. 21. Loss \$300,000. A man carrying a bag had stepped in the office of T. Cousins's shoe factory in Norwalk, Conn., Dec. 25, and approaching Manager J. B. Sayre exclaimed: "Give me \$2,500 or I will drop this bag of powder on your head." Mr. Sayre's eyes, and he quickly gave the man a check, payable to G. A. Franze, and bowed his visitor out.

Percy Smith, of Salem, Mass., cut one of his hands recently quite severely, to avoid taking the blame for a murder and escape in one of a pair of new dogskin gloves. His arm and hand soon commenced to swell, and a physician who had been called to it to be a specialist, was unable to find any other cause for the swelling, and he was unable to find any other cause for the swelling, and he was unable to find any other cause for the swelling.

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Foreign.

The North German Lloyd steamer Spree arrived in Southampton Dec. 22 with the crew of the Union Line steamer Abyssinia. On Dec. 21, the crew of the Spree was rescued by the crew of the Abyssinia. The crew of the Spree was rescued by the crew of the Abyssinia. The crew of the Spree was rescued by the crew of the Abyssinia.

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mittee refused to allow the reports to be sent to the press, and insisted that they should be made before His Majesty was allowed to see them. Acting under instructions, when the Governors were given an audience by the Emperor, they told His Majesty that the reports were satisfactory and that the situation was improving. At present an enormous number of convicts are working on the Trans-Siberian railway, which is to connect Vladivostok, the Russian port on the Pacific, with European Russia. The convicts escape the vigilance of their keepers and work their way upon the unoffending inhabitants of the country through the line with ease. Murders, mutilations, outrages upon defenseless women, and robberies are some of the crimes placed to the credit of these undesirable railroad laborers.

The coal report for West Virginia for 1891 shows that the output has about doubled in the past two years, while the number of men employed has increased 25 per cent. The 1891 report estimates the output for this year at 7,241,430 tons of coal and 1,234,418 tons of coke. There are 4,117 coke ovens in operation, 800 others are in process of erection, and 2,600 more have been contracted for.

Political and Industrial.

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Trouton's Battle Monument.

The patriotic people of Trouton, N. J., witnessed, on Dec. 25, the laying of the cornerstone of the Trouton Battle Monument, at the Five Points, the spot where the Continental Army under Washington routed the Hessian troops under Baron Mifflin, on the site now occupied by Bishop O'Reilly's residence. Col. Rahl had established his headquarters.

Gov. Abbott, Gen. Stryker, and other men of note were escorted by a detachment of the city troops from the State House to the site of the monument. Gov. Abbott laid the cornerstone with a new trowel. A national salute of 44 guns was fired, and the benediction was delivered by Bishop O'Reilly.

Commemorative exercises were held at four o'clock in Taylor's Opera House, under the auspices of the Battle Monument Association, Gen. Sewell presiding. Senator McIlhenny, Gen. William S. Stryker, Gen. Horace Porter, and George M. Robinson, ex-Secretary of the Navy, took part in the exercises.

The Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Sons of the Revolution, each held a banquet in commemoration of the occasion.

The monument will cost \$50,000, of which \$20,000 was appropriated by the National Government, \$15,000 by the State, and \$15,000 was raised by popular subscription.

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